

Saints Peter & Paul
Byzantine Catholic Church
107 South Fourth Street
Minersville, PA 17954

Saints Peter & Paul Rectory: (570) 544-2074

Website: www.sspeterandpaulminersville.com

Email: tvrgin@outlook.com

Served by: Very Reverend Gregory J. Noga, Pastor

SS. Peter & Paul Cantor: Mr. Paul Konkus St. Mary Cantor: Dr. Peter Yasenchak

CONFESSIONS: Sts. Peter & Paul: Saturday 2:45-3:30 PM, Sunday 8:00-8:30 AM,
St. Mary's: Saturday 1:00 – 1:30 PM

SICK CALLS: As scheduled, or anytime in case of an emergency. If anyone is homebound or hospitalized, please call the rectory (544-2074) IMMEDIATELY.

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Our parish is grateful for their support – May the Lord bless their efforts!

The Cure of Baptism Foreshadowed

What manner of cure is this? What mystery does it signify to us? For these things are not written carelessly, or without a purpose, but as a figure

and type they show in outline things to come, in order that what was exceedingly strange might not, by coming unexpectedly, do harm among the many the power of faith. What then is it that they show in outline? A Baptism was about to be given, possessing much power, and the greatest of gifts, a Baptism purging all sins and making men alive instead of dead. These things then are foreshown as in a picture by the pool, and by many other circumstances. And first is given a water which purges the stains of our bodies, and those defilements which are not, but seem to be, as those from touching the dead, those from leprosy, and other similar causes; under the old covenant one may see many things done by water

on this account. However, let us now proceed to the matter in hand.

First then, as I before said, He causes defilements of our bodies, and afterwards infirmities of different kinds, to be done away by water. Because God, desiring to bring us nearer to faith in Baptism, no longer heals defilements only, but diseases also. For those figures which came nearer [in time] to the reality, both as regarded Baptism, and the Passion, and the rest, were plainer than the more ancient. ... And this miracle was done in order that men, learning that it is possible by water to heal the diseases of the body, and being exercised in this for a long time, might more easily believe that it can also heal the diseases of the soul.

St. John Chrysostom

SUNDAY OF THE PARALYTIC MAN

Ο ΧΕ ΙΚΜΕΝΟΣ

ΤΟΝ ΠΑΡΑΛΥΤΟΝ



Icon of Jesus Healing the Paralytic Man

Christ is risen!

Indeed He is risen!

Sunday of the Paralytic Man
Festal Tone

Welcome to the parish communities of SS. Peter and Paul and St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Churches of Minersville and Saint Clair, Pennsylvania. We greet and welcome you to our Church. Our Church is a holy place. Our Church is where we get together in Jesus' Name. It is holy because we come here to worship, to be nourished in faith through Sacred Scripture and preaching, to open our hearts and minds to celebrate the mystery of salvation in Jesus Christ and to dedicate ourselves to a life of holiness and service to the Lord and others. The church building itself reflects this faith and calls us to enter into communion with God. We invite you to share our faith in Jesus Christ, to experience our worship and to live a life dedicated to the service of God and one another in Jesus' Name.
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April 25– May 1, 2021

All Divine Services are livestreamed where noted

- Saturday 4:00 p.m. Vigil Divine Liturgy (at SS Peter & Paul)
+ Nicholas Kostishak req. by Mrs. Lola Pulaski
- Sunday 8:00 a.m. H&B Kate Ammon req. by Family (at St. Mary)
10:00 am Health and Blessing of the Parishioners (at SS. Peter & Paul)
Livestreamed
- Monday 8:00 a.m. No Divine Liturgy Today
- Tuesday 8:00 a.m. No Divine Liturgy Today
- Wednesday 8:00 a.m. No Divine Liturgy Today
- Thursday 8:00 a.m. No Divine Liturgy Today
- Friday 8:00 a.m. No Divine Liturgy Today

Saturday 4:00 p.m. Vigil Divine Liturgy (at SS. Peter & Paul)
+Fr. Vladimir E. Kapisinsky req. by (+Metro) & Elizabeth Cremo

Epistle Readers: 4/24 – Dolores Kramer; 4/25 – Anna Keer; 5/1 – Angela Frank.

Pastoral Note: I will be away this week and **Father James Carroll, OFM** (570-773-2631) will cover for any emergencies. Father Mark from St. Nicholas Ukrainian Church will also be available (570-544-4581) should the need arise.

Wonderful News: Today we witness one of our newest parishioner's baptism and chrismation into the Body of Christ. **James Schreffler** V son of James and Dana Schreffler, who recently registered as members of our parish. We offer our congratulations, best wishes and prayers on their behalf. Welcome!

THE PERSEVERANCE OF THE PARALYTIC,
CHRYSOSTOM: The perseverance of the paralytic was astonishing. He was thirty-eight years old, and each year he hoped to be freed from his disease. He lay there waiting, never giving up. If he had not persevered as much as he did, wouldn't his future prospects, let alone the past, have been enough to discourage him from staying around that place? Consider how alert the other sick people there would be, since no one knew for sure when the waters would be troubled. The lame and the limping could observe it, but how would a blind man? Maybe he learned it from the clamor that arose. Let us be ashamed then, beloved, let us be ashamed and groan over our excessive laziness. That man had been waiting thirty-eight years without obtaining what he desired, and he still did not withdraw. And he failed, not through any carelessness of his own but through being oppressed and suffering violence from others. And still he did not give up. We ... might persist in prayer for something for ten days or so, and if we have not obtained it, we are too lazy afterwards to employ the same energy [as he did]. And yet, we will wait forever on our fellow human beings, fighting and enduring hardships, performing menial labor, all for the chance of something that in the end fails to meet our expectations. But when it comes to our Master, from whom we are sure to obtain a reward greater than our labors ... we exercise no such diligence in waiting on him.... For even if we receive nothing from him, isn't the very fact that we are able to converse with him continually the cause of ten thousand blessings?
HOMILIES ON THE GOSPEL OF JOHN 36.1-2.16

Chicken Dinner: By all accounts our take-out chicken dinner was a success! I received many compliments from parishioners and non-parishioners alike. I extend a heart-felt thanks and appreciation to all who participated in food preparation, serving and importantly, cleaning up after the fact and the donations received. \$1,285 realized.

Another dinner is scheduled for July, but more information on that will be forthcoming. We should establish an event committee to arrange future projects in order to set a calendar and work schedule. Therefore, I propose May 15, 2021 following the Vigil Liturgy, to meet for this purpose.

Healing Sermon

HOLY GOD, HOLY MIGHTY, HOLY MORTEL, HAVE MERCY

ON US

During this glorious Resurrection season, we are positively reminded over and again of the Eucharist which for us is an emphatic means and obvious sign of Resurrection victory. In this feast we are reminded that God "is not the God of the dead, but of the living" Matthew 22:32. And having life, being possessed of life means healthy life, whole life, upright life. This feast tells us that our God desires the renewal and transformation of His people and all creation with such intensity that He is willing to die that upright healthy life might reign.

By His death and Resurrection, Christ leads us into the promised land; He takes us by the hands and lifts us up to our rightful dignity in which there is no sickness, sorrow nor mourning, but life everlasting. It is this reality that we now proclaim to all and cherish for ourselves. That is why we repeat over and again the very simple, yet profound expression of fundamental faith, "Christ Is Risen!" "Indeed He Is Risen!"

The gift of the Eucharist which this feast affords us is awe-inspiring and far-reaching. It does affect our good health because it introduces us to life everlasting. Having been born in the flesh in the City of Bread, Bethlehem, it should not be surprising, He chooses to nourish us with His Bread/Body. The Body and Blood of the Lord feeds and sustains us, and we become what we eat. Heavenly nature slowly grows within us so that the meaning of the Eucharist offers us spiritual food for thought as well. The Eucharist inspires a transformation in us, a change that begins to slowly and irrevocably change our human nature and transform it, exalt it to become Christ-like, God-like.

And then we become bread for one another whenever we give new life to each other. When someone is hungry, and we offer sustenance/food, both physical and spiritual, we become bread for them. When someone is hurt and we provide healing words and assistance and care, when some one is sad and we offer and share with them kindness in Christ. We become the bread from Christ for them. When someone is lonely and we provide friendship, we become their bread. When someone is sorry and we give forgiveness. We nourish them with the bread of forgiveness. And when we receive Communion worthily ourselves, we are saying thanks for all those who have been sustaining, nourishing and affirming bread for us. And we promise to try to be bread to everyone who really needs us, especially those who hurt the most.

Let your light
so shine before men,
that they may see
your good works
and glorify your
Father in heaven.

—Matthew 5:16

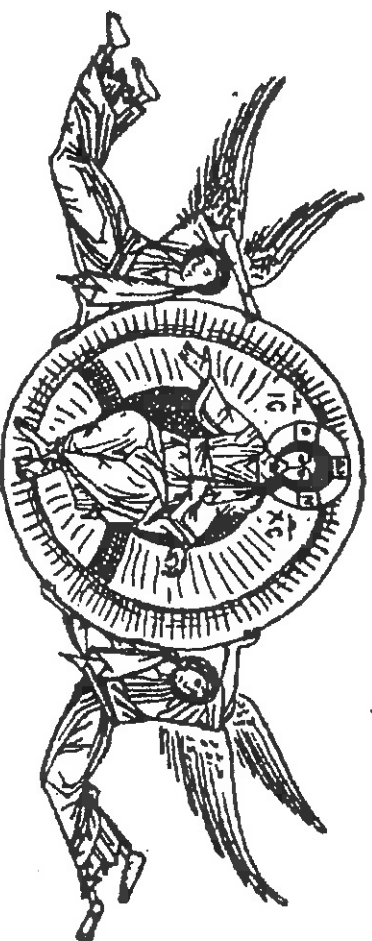
We are enriched when we hear the words and testimony of our Lord, "I am the bread of life..." and the bread that I give is my own self for the life of the world."

We know that prior to our redemption on the cross, our Lord had a special farewell meal with his friends and disciples. At the Mystical Supper He taught them and imparted new life by helping them understand and care more about themselves and others because they are possessed of an immortal soul and made in his image. He broke the bread and gave them new life by sharing himself in that very bread. And He asked them to remember him in that very way.

We know that after He died on the cross, his friends were absolutely lost without him. But slowly they came to realize by the grace of the Holy Spirit that He is still with them and us, especially when we meet to relive his teachings at the Divine Liturgy and break heavenly bread together. When we worship him at the Divine Liturgy and receive communion, we remember with deep thanks who Jesus is and believe He is still with us because of Resurrection grace.

When we carefully listen to and accept his teachings and when we share the special consecrated bread made His Body by the descent of the Holy Spirit, we are eager to share ourselves with one another. "On the night before he suffered, he took bread into his hands, gave thanks, blessed it, broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, 'This is my body which is given for you.'"

How often we are gathered by the Holy Spirit at a healing service because we have received His bread, His Body along with His precious Blood and are become more and more Christ-like because of His enduring love for us. We come to claim our inheritance of wholeness, to share with Him the goodness of our creation in flesh and spirit. We wish to be nourishing, sustaining bread, just like Christ. Let us nourish ourselves, let us nourish others, let us become more and more Christ-like because of the glorious gift of Resurrection!



Wisdom, Be Attentive!

Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad, with His arm, the Lord has won victory; by His death, He has conquered death; He has become the first born of the dead; He has delivered us from the depth of the Abyss and has granted great mercy to the world Troparion, Sunday of the Paralytic.

With your divine protection, O Lord, as you once raised the paralytic, now lift up my soul paralyzed with all kinds of sins and evil deeds of wickedness, so that saved I may cry out to You: "Glory to your might, O merciful Christ!" Kontakion, Sunday of the Paralytic.

Although You descended to the grave, O Immortal One, You destroyed the power of death; You rose again as a Victor, O Christ God! You announced to the women bearing ointment: "Rejoice!" You gave peace to your apostles and resurrection to the fallen Kontakion, Sunday of the Paralytic.

May your kindness O Lord, be upon us who put our hope in You Prokimenon, Sunday of the Paralytic.

Receive the Body of Christ! Drink the Source of Immortality! Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia! Communion Hymn, Sunday of the Paralytic.

When the Paschal Feast is half-completed, quench my thirsty soul with the waters of devotion, for You, O Saviour, have announced to all: "Let him who is thirsty come to me and drink," O Christ God, Source of our life, glory to You! Troparion, Feast of Mid-Pentecost.

O Christ God, Creator and Lord of all, when the Paschal feast was half-completed, You told those present: "Come and draw the water of immortality." Let us therefore adore You and cry out with faith: "Grant us your goodness, for You are the Source of our life!" Kontakion, Feast of Mid-Pentecost.